

N²Hazardous Waste Site Dossier

162333

I. Site Name

Browning-Ferris Industries
714 Division Street
Elizabeth, New Jersey

II. Background to Investigation and Source of Initial Referral

Site identified during investigation of the Browning-Ferris landfill in South Brunswick, New Jersey.

III. Site Description

The facility is actually a transfer station which consists of an office building, garage, trash transfer building, compactor, and a large storage yard which is used to store roll-off containers and sludge boxes. Registered with NJDEP as facility number 2004A, the transfer station handles municipal, as well as chemical hazardous wastes. Municipal wastes are disposed of at local landfills and the hazardous wastes are allegedly shipped to Baltimore, Maryland for disposal.

The facility is located in an industrial area and there appears to be no threat to groundwater or water supplies. Storm sewers on site, however, may be carrying polluted runoff into nearby water bodies (Newark Bay and Arthur Kill). This problem does not appear to be significant.

IV. Allegation of "Imminent Hazard" Pollution

The facility has been cited by NJDEP for allowing chemical sludges to be stored too close to the municipal waste area. The DEP alleges that the sludges were mixing in with the municipal wastes and as a result were being disposed of at landfills not authorized to accept chemical wastes. NJDEP also alleges that the sludge pile was located too close to storm sewers which could during heavy rain receive leachate from the sludge pile.

V. Current Involvement

In November, 1979, NJDEP requested that a special area away from the municipal waste area and storm sewer be designated for storage of chemical wastes. Browning-Ferris is currently in the process of complying.

VI. Information Still Needed

EPA should make a site visit to the facility to determine if acceptable methods are being practiced. If so, we should allow the State to continue managing the situation.